National Irrigation Projects

1664. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take up certain irrigation projects as National Projects in order to tap water resources; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in customs duty on TIOC

1665. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has increased the customs duty on TIOC, a drug intermediate;

(b) if so, when and what was the duty on this item in the past and what is the present duty;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the users of this intermediate had stocked lower duty paid intermediate before the customs duty was increased and are now charging high price for the end product, i.e. Erythromycin;

(d) what was the quantity of imported TIOC cleared during the six months prior of the increase of duty;

(e) what are the names of importers and the quantity imported by each of them;

(f) whether it is a fact that under this process, the importers made huge profits; and

(g) what steps have been taken by Government to investigate the whole matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The import duty on TIOC which is an intermediate used in the manufacture of Erythromycin was increased from 125 per cent plus Rs. 25 per Kg. to 145 per cent ad valorem with effect from the 16th December, 1988.

(d) and (e) Details of imports of TIOC during the period of six months prior to increase of duty are being collected.

(c), (f) and (g) Whenever there is a variation in import duty of a commodity, the extent of profit in the case of persons who had imported the commodity prior to such variation may undergo a change. Erythromycin is an item covered by the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987. Its prices are fixed from time to time by the administrative Ministry after taking into account, inter alia the changes in the import duty.

Reduction in Customs duty on drugs etc.

1666. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of drugs, drug intermediates and finished medicines on which his ministry reduced or exempted customs duty during 1988;

(b) whether it is a fact that neither the producers of drugs formulators nor the importers of finished medicines reduced the prices;

(c) whether his Ministry has any cell to monitor the effect in prices; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The following notifications were issued during 1988 prescribing concessional rates of